

For Your Information
Weekly
FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF
May 15, 2015

Clewiston Recreation and East Recreation Summer Camps are currently open for registration for the 1st and 2nd sessions. Registration must be completed by May 22nd and final/full payment must be made by June 1st. Please check www.clewistonrecreation.com for registration information and how to take advantage of the 50% discount for Summer Camp! Please call the Youth Center at 983-1492 if you have any questions.

City offices will be closed on Monday, May 25, Memorial Day. There will be no residential garbage pickup on Memorial Day; garbage will be picked up on Tuesday.

Dates to Remember:

May 25, 2015 – Memorial Day – City offices closed – No residential garbage pickup

May 18, 2015 – City Commission Meeting and Budget Workshop

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Reese reports:

- We have received preliminary plans from General Home Development Corporation of Pinellas, Inc. for the 50 unit housing project to be located on West Ventura Avenue and we scheduled technical review staff to meet next week to review and provide comments.
- This week, we have the 3rd common term used by FEMA to aid understanding flood insurance and flood map changes coming to our City.
 - ***Flood Insurance Rate Maps:*** Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) are the tool the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) uses to determine the flood risk that home and business owners face. They are the official maps of a community on which FEMA has delineated both the special flood hazard areas (SFHA, the 1st common term) and the risk premium zones applicable to the community. Another term is DFIRM, which just means the maps are in digital form. The maps can be viewed at www.floodsmart.org

Police Chief Gutshall reports:

- Responding to a report of a traffic accident on East Avenida Del Rio, CPD officers found a vehicle overturned inside the canal. The driver was unconscious and pinned inside the vehicle. Officers used a hammer tossed down by a bystander to break out a window in an attempt to free the man. They were unsuccessful and then wrapped a chain around the axle while the same bystander pulled with his truck managing to move the vehicle enough to free the door from the canal bottom. The driver was then freed. He remains hospitalized on life support.
- One house on North Berner was broken into overnight during the week. Two vehicles on the North side of town have also been gone through. Officers have developed a couple of suspects in the cases. The investigation is ongoing.
- A handgun was stolen from a residence on West Del Monte. The suspect, who is an acquaintance of the victim, has not been located.

- Chief Gutshall visited with Lt. Mike Rowan who is recuperating from an auto accident. He is in good spirits, though still in pain. He's hopeful to return to his desk in the next week or two. We're eager for his return as well. Many of us are absorbing so many extra duties these days that the quality and quantity of work are beginning to suffer.
- Following is a brief synopsis of the week's activity:
 - 1161** Commercial / Residential Security Checks
 - 585** Complaints Investigated
 - 19** Arrests Made
 - 34** Traffic Citations Issued
 - 15** New Code Enforcement Cases Opened
 - 49** Red Light Camera Violations
 - 15** City Ordinance Violations
 - 67** Merchant Escorts Provided
 - 16** Alarms Responded To
 - 4** Traffic Accidents Investigated

Public Works Director Scheffler reports:

- Mosquito Control: Activity is picking up as we get more into the season. We are scheduled for once a week trapping and a treatments on Friday. We will be increasing the trapping to two nights a week starting next week to determine if we need to increase the treatments.
- Street Maintenance: (1) Staff started removing dangerous palms on Royal Palm Avenue and discovered nesting owls and Blue Jays. Work was stopped until the nesting season is over.
- Landscaping: (1) Sean met with a staff person from the Florida Public Utility gas company at the Golf Course and discussed the relocation of the gas tanks to a location out of the sight of patrons to the Country Club and Pro Shop. With some help, it looks like the relocation can happen at no charge. We are looking at a cost to install a white decorative fence around the tanks to hide them better. (2) A request to meet with the newest DOT Landscape Architect has been requested to get a determination on several questions about what will be and what will not be accepted in the design and the location being considered. (3) Plans are coming together to make the next step in the Civic Park rebuild. Water crews are working on water supply lines. A quote for the purchase of the large planter/ Birdbath in the middle of the monument area has been requested. Special construction materials have been ordered. Exciting things are about to happen and residents are asked to be mindful of the work that will be taking place in the park and keep children away from work sites.
- Central Avenue Display: Have you noticed the ATHEY wagon on display on Central Avenue? This piece of equipment was used by local farmers and the US Armed Forces in the 1940's to haul troops and supplies and also in the sugar industry. Thanks to Miller Couse for donating this interesting piece for all to see and thanks to Public Works staff that did such a good job getting it ready for display.

Recreation Director Ramer reports:

- Clewiston Recreation staff has been “feverishly” working to ensure that our camp staff, CIT’s, Lifeguards, LIT’s, Clewiston and East Hendry County rec staff, summer camps/facilities/programs and our entire department are compliant with new Level 2 background screenings through the DCF Clearinghouse and portals before camp starts on June 9th. We have registered with the State of Florida and DCF and received our Originating Agency Identifier (ORI) and our Originating Agency Case Number (OCA) and have pre-registered through the Clearinghouse Portal. We will hopefully be sending several potential seasonal hires (Lifeguards & LIT’s) through the system this week.
- CIT and LIT applications are available at the Youth Center and must be returned by May 22nd at 5:00 p.m. to the Youth Center.
- The pressure washing of the buildings and deck at the James Mason Pool in Harlem will be finished early next week. Our time-goal to open both pools is Memorial Day weekend Saturday May 23rd.
- Clewiston Recreation’s “turf management” plan for Sugarland Sports Complex began two weeks ago and all the “Game fields” were treated for emergent invasive vegetation. The second round of chemical applications will take place this weekend, within the 14 day treatment window for maximum efficiency and treatment.
- Softball Boot Camp and Showcase at Sugarland Sports Complex on Memorial Day weekend has been confirmed! Approximately 75 players will participate in the 2 day showcase and stay overnight in America’s Sweetest Town! We are EXCITED to welcome our guests!
- Negotiations are continuing and a “Host Application” has been submitted with Challenge Sports to host a 2-3 day national qualifying 3V3 Soccer Tournament in Clewiston at Sugarland Sports Complex during the summer. More information to follow
- If you are interested in participating in an adult men’s and co-ed softball league this spring, an adult co-ed volleyball league in the early summer or youth flag football and AAU Track and Field during the late summer, please contact Andre at 983-1492.
- The Clewiston Spray Pad has “NEW” operating hours; the Splash Pad will be opened on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. - noon and Saturdays and Sundays from 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- ZUMBA at the Youth Center on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings beginning at 7:30 p.m. Contact Tanya (our Certified Instructor) directly at (914) 338-6577.
- Go to www.clewistonrecreation.com to check us out and get information regarding all your recreational needs.

Utilities Director Williams reports:

- The Department of Transportation (DOT) has been in town collecting information on the red lights for the upcoming upgrade.
- The Electric crew ran a new service to the school bus barn and set a new pole on West Avenida Del Rio. Trees are being trimmed in the easement of San Benito and street light repairs are being made.
- The sand and grit removal from the tanks at the Wastewater Treatment Plant has been completed.
- The Water/Sewer crew re-plumbed the lift station at Eastside/Westside Elementary School and the San Jose lift station. New valves and plumbing were installed at the

Wastewater Treatment Plant. They repaired a 4” main water break on Carolina and a 2” water main on Bond Street and one on W C Owen Avenue. A new service was run at 315 West Avenida Del Rio. Water valve exercising is being done in the Harlem area this week.

- Please remember to register with CodeRed (Reverse 911). This system allows us to contact you in case of an emergency or with other informational announcements. You may register by clicking on the CodeRed link at the bottom or the City’s website page www.clewiston-fl.gov. You may update your information at any time through the same link.
- If you are considering replacing your air conditioner or insulation, remember the City offers a rebate program for those items. Most local contractors participate in the program and can give you information. You can also visit our website at www.clewiston-fl.gov or call our office.
- **DON’T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR YOUR METER BASED SURGE PROTECTION!** Visit our office today.
- **ONLINE UTILITY PAYMENT AVAILABLE!** Payments can be made by credit or debit card. You can also review your account activity, consumption history and request certain work orders. You can register your account by visiting our website at www.clewiston-fl.gov and click on the link at the bottom of the page or by going to <https://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/clewistonfl>.